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**PRESS ADVISORY**

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Secretary of Defense William J. Perry will host an Expanded Honor Cordon to welcome The Right Honorable Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for the Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the Pentagon at 12:45 p.m. (EST), Nov. 1, 1994. The Cordon will be held on the steps of the Pentagon River Entrance. There will be a photo opportunity immediately following the Cordon.

At 3 p.m. (EST), Secretary Perry, Secretary Rifkind and The Right Honorable Sir Robin W. Renwick, Ambassador to the U.S. from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will conduct a Recognition Ceremony for the Operation Overlord Paintings in Corridor 10 of the Pentagon.

Media interested in audiovisual coverage of these events may contact Mr. Terry Mitchell at (703) 695-0169.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
HOSTS HONOR CORDON FOR U.K. DEFENSE MINISTER MALCOLM RIFKIND, WITH  
MEETING AFTERWARD, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS  
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# Rifkind and Perry sketch strategy for Bosnian airstrikes

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

MALCOLM Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, yesterday met his American counterpart, William Perry, amid growing Western concern over renewed fighting in Bosnia and the need to define clearer lines of communication between the United Nations and Nato in former Yugoslavia.

Their talks went on as Bosnian Serb and Muslim forces battled for territory and UN peacekeepers expected the clashes to intensify as the rebel Serbs sought revenge for their setbacks.

Bosnia was the main focus of the Rifkind-Perry talks. Britain and America are pressing for a clearer mandate for Nato in deciding what Bosnian Serb targets should be hit in any future airstrikes.

Until recently, Nato planes have been allowed to attack only minor targets, but under new rules that were agreed with UN commanders last week they may now select up to four larger targets of greater military value.

Mr Rifkind's talks come after the introduction of an American resolution at the UN to lift the arms embargo against the predominantly Muslim Bosnian government. This is putting pressure on Britain and America's other European allies to come up with a better way to break the stalemate as Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia face the third bleak winter of war.

Mr Rifkind, whose talks are continuing, will wish to discuss the lifting of the embargo, a move which Britain has always viewed as a final resort and would inevitably result in the withdrawal of British UN forces from the region.

The Bosnian Serbs continued to yield ground on several fronts around the republic yesterday, hours after the rebels' leader had vowed to counter-attack and crush the government army.

The week-old lightning offensive south of the Bihac enclave in northwestern Bosnia continued, as UN officials revised upwards the territory they believe that Bosnian army troops have seized to 100 square miles. The government-held enclave has increased in size by almost 50 per cent in the past week, after nearly two years of paralysis.

South of Sarajevo, Bosnian troops appear to have forced surprised Serb troops back another mile since Sunday afternoon. They were reported to be moving mortars and artillery to captured high ground to fire on a key supply route linking rebel-held territory in southern Bosnia with the rest of their lands.

Serb forces now control 70 per cent of the country. The past week has been the first of the war where the Bosnian army significantly improved its military position. UN officers suggest that the trend may not last long.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, appearing for the first time in a military uniform, travelled to the town of Bosanski Petrovac, ten miles east of the Muslim advance. "I was hoping that I would never have to wear a war uniform," Dr Karadzic told a crowd of 1,000. "But our enemy does not want peace. They want war, and if they want war they'll have it."

Dr Karadzic said that his troops would compel the Bosnian government to surrender by force. So far, however, expected Serb counter-offensives have not materialised. The Serbs have reacted sporadically with artillery and multi-barrelled rocket launchers, but the nature of the fighting — mostly in mountains and hills better suited to infantry than tanks and artillery — has given the Bosnian army the advantage.

Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, called the offensives of the past week a positive step towards peace. "These victories will prove to the Serbs they will have to come to the negotiating table and negotiate seriously," he said in Sarajevo. "There is no other way. Their force is not overwhelming enough to make peace by itself. They now understand they have a formidable resistance here."

Mr Silajdzic, referring to the so-called Contact Group peace plan put forward in July, said: "Let me remind you that we have accepted peace and the

aggressor has refused peace."

Responding to criticism of the Bosnian army's attacks from within the Bihac UN "safe area", Mr Silajdzic replied: "I have a question for you: Do you call it a 'safe area'? I would not. Do you know how many civilians were killed in Bihac lately? Are we supposed to just lie down and die quietly?"

Some UN officials have suggested that Bosnian army attacks on the Serbs would make peacekeeping impossible and force a pullout of the "blue helmets". Mr Silajdzic suggested that such a view exposed a pro-Serb attitude within the UN. "Why would they withdraw now? Are the UN only tolerating Bosnia as a helpless victim?"

The Serbs have mortared a Muslim-held suburb of Sarajevo for two nights running, killing three civilians, including a young boy, and wounding more than a dozen.

When a Serb general threatened to shell Sarajevo in response to the Bosnian army offensive in Bihac, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander, was unequivocal in his retort. "If they do shell Sarajevo, they know what they can expect. As the former SAS commander said, 'Lieutenant Colonel Tim Spicer, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said yesterday that it was still unclear where the mortars had come from. He added: 'If it continues, then we will consider what our military response is.'"